

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 01441 261203Z

67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 OPR-02 CU-02 AID-05 AF-06 EUR-12

/042 W

----- 016170

R 260948Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3846

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECDEF WASHDC

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

SANG MODERNIZATION RIYADH

DISTENGR RIYADH

USDESEA KARLSRUHE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1441

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASCH, SEDU, SA

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN SCHOOL

REF: STATE 42690

1. WE HAVE HERETOFORE OPPOSED ESTABLISHING A HIGH SCHOOL IN SAUDI ARABIA DUE TO THE LIKELY CLASH OF TRADITIONAL AND EXTREMELY ORTHODOX SAUDI RELIGIOUS VALUES AND WAY OF LIFE OF TODAY'S AMERICAN YOUTH. IT IS ONLY TOO EASY TO IMAGINE REPERCUSSIONS RESULTING FROM OUR TEENAGERS ATTEMPTING TO LIVE LIFE AS THEY KNOW IT IN THE UNITED STATES IN SAUDI ARABIA. SUCH A CONFLICT IN VALUES AND BEHAVIOR PATTERNS COULD PROVE TO BE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 01441 261203Z

DETRIMENTAL TO OVERALL U.S./SAUDI RELATIONS. HOWEVER,

WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE NEED TO ASSESS REALISTICALLY THE EMERGING U.S. PRESENCE IN SAUDI ARABIA IN PARTICULAR AND THE GULF IN GENERAL AND TO CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS IF INDEED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATIONS ARE TO ATTRACT SENIOR-LEVEL, COMPETENT, AND FULLY QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS AND MANAGERS. THEREFORE, BOTH THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN DHAHRAN AND THE EMBASSY WILL BE MEETING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS OVER THE NEXT TEN DAYS TO DETERMINE THE OVERALL IN-KINGDOM REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL OF ESTABLISHING A USDESEA SCHOOL. ALSO, THE AMBASSADOR, UPON HIS RETURN TO THE KINGDOM EARLY NEXT MONTH, WILL REVIEW THE EMBASSY'S AND THE COMMUNITY'S REACTION.

2. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO RECEIVE THE VIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF OVERSEAS SCHOOLS CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH SCHOOL IN SUCH A SOCIALLY RESTRICTED ENVIRONMENT. CAN A CURRICULUM OR FACILITY BE DESIGNED WHICH WOULD ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF A HIGH SCHOOL IN SUCH A STERILE ENVIRONMENT? (ANY CURRICULUM WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE PRESCRIPTIVE, CONTINUOUS, AND CENTERED ON SCHOOL THAT CURRICULA OF MOST U.S. BOARDING SCHOOLS ARE.) REMEMBERING THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS LIKE NO OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, HOW CAN WE BEST PLAN TO MINIMIZE INHERENT CONFLICTS BETWEEN LOCAL RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS WITHOUT ESTABLISHING A MONASTERY. IS THERE ANY MODEL WE CAN DRAW ON? WE BELIEVE ON THE ONE HAND THAT STUDENTS WOULD LIKELY BE BETTER OFF STUDYING IN THE COUNTRY OF THEIR FAMILY'S RESIDENCE RATHER THAN IN EUROPE OR THE UNITED STATES. YET, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE WE OPENING A POTENTIAL PANDORA'S BOX OF PROBLEMS WITH THE LOCAL POPULACE BY OPENING A HIGH SCHOOL?

3. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE SCHOOL IN BAHRAIN WOULD RECEIVE DIRECT SAG FINANCIAL SUPPORT. ANY SUPPORT WOULD BE IN FORM OF INDIRECT SUPPORT VIA CONTRACTS WITH COMPANIES PROVIDING PAYMENTS OF TUITION FOR CHILDREN OF COMPANY PERSONNEL. THEREFORE, IF TUITION PAYMENTS INCREASE OR IF BUILDING SURCHARGES ARE LEVIED, WE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JIDDA 01441 261203Z

EXPECT COMPANIES WOULD NEED TO CHARGE BACK SUCH COSTS TO SAG OR THEIR SPONSORING SAUDI COMPANY OR EVEN SEEK RENEGOTIATION OF CONTRACTS.

4. IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT SAG FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF AN IN-COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WHEREAS A NON-MUSLIM SCHOOL SYSTEM EXISTS ON PAPER AND ALTHOUGH SAG IS COMMITTED TO FUNDING

LAND PURCHASES AND FACILITY CONSTRUCTION FOR SCHOOLS
IN JIDDA, RIYADH, AND DHAHRAN, ACTION HAS BECOME MIRED
IN THE SAUDI BUREAUCRACY. WE ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF
THREE YEARS BEFORE SAG-FUNDED SCHOOL PLANTS BECOME A REALITY.
HENCE, IF A HIGH SCHOOL IS TO EXIST IN THE IMMEDIATE
FUTURE, IT WILL REQUIRE THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND
RESOURCES OF THE WESTERN COMMUNITY RATHER THAN THE
SAUDI GOVERNMENT. (SHOULD WE CONCLUDE THAT A BOARDING
SCHOOL CAN BE ESTABLISHED IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE DHAHRAN
CONGEN SITE IS PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHERE THE REQUISITE
LAND/PRIVACY IS AVAILABLE.)
HORAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECONDARY SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA01441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760072-1210
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760211/aaaaaitz.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 42690
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BAHRAIN SCHOOL
TAGS: ASCH, SEDU, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006